

c.) Amendments to the Claims

The following claims are shown as modified, with markings to indicate the modifications.

7. (Currently Amended) The pill splitter of claim ~~[[6]]~~ 19, wherein the cutting blade assembly is disposed directly below the bed.

1-6 (Cancelled)

15. (New) A quartering pill splitter comprising:

- (a) a substantially cylindrical bed comprising guide tabs and having a recess formed within having a cross section which substantially conforms to the pill shape;
- (b) a thin, cruciate cutting blade assembly disposed in a lower body, in proximity to the bed, and further comprising a first blade having a thickness and a second blade at a substantially right angle relative to the first blade, and offset from the first blade by a distance approximately equal to the thickness of the first blade, and both blades comprising cutting edges,
- (c) an upper body, integrally affixed to the lower body, and containing one or more linear plunger guide slots in which the guide tabs are engaged, aligning the bed thereby; and
- (d) a plunger, further comprising
 - plunger guides which slidably engage the plunger guide slots; and
 - a compression member formed at a lower end of the plunger, the compression member having a pointed lower edge which remains parallel to the first blade as it slides,

so that when the plunger is suddenly and forcibly slid toward the pill, the pill is first sheared between the compression member and the first blade, and then shears parallel to the second blade.

16. (New) The pill splitter of claim 15, wherein the upper body, lower body, and pill bed are all cylindrical.

17. (New) The pill splitter of claim 16, wherein the cutting blade assembly is disposed directly below the bed.

18. (New) A quartering pill splitter comprising:

- (a) a pill bed having a recess having a cross section formed within which substantially conforms to the pill shape;
- (b) a thin, cruciate cutting blade assembly affixed in a lower body, in proximity to the bed, and further comprising a first blade having a thickness and a second blade at a substantially right angle relative to the first blade, each blade having a cutting edge, and the second blade offset from the first blade by a distance approximately equal to the thickness of the first blade,
- (c) an upper body, containing one or more linear plunger guides slots; and
- (d) a plunger, further comprising an upper compression member which slides with respect to the cutting blade assembly, said compression member having a linear, pointed edge which slidably engages the first blade parallel to its cutting edge,

so that when the plunger is suddenly and forcibly slid toward the pill, the pill is first sheared between the compression member and the first blade, and then shears parallel to the second blade.

19. (New) The pill splitter of claim 18, wherein the pill bed further comprises alignment tabs which engage the guide slots, aligning the bed thereby.